

Hello Immanuel Family,

We hope that you are doing well during this holiday season! We wanted to check in and give you an update of our life out here on vicarage!

We have been doing well out here in Denver. As with most of the country, Colorado has a large number of COVID-19 cases right now and many businesses and services are shutting down once again. So far, we have been able to keep worship services happening with limited numbers while also offering an online service for those staying at home to stay safe. It is evident that people are greatly hurting due to the separation and isolation that COVID is causing, and it is also evident that this virus poses a threat to so many people. We continue to pray for protection and guidance in decision making during this time.



Melanie and I on one of our new favorite hikes! It was relatively easy and the view from the top was gorgeous!

Melanie has still been feeling well during pregnancy. We are excited as we now have a stroller, car seat and bed for our little one. Seeing those has really made it feel more real! The hardest part right now is that with restrictions, I am not allowed to attend our appointments. It



We dressed up as Winnie the Pooh & Tigger for Bethlehem's Trunk or Treat. Members of the community got to drive through and look at various trunk displays before receiving candy at the end!

has been hard for Melanie to go alone, but she has handled it with strength. She has continued her work at the Early Learning Center. She recently made a video of her students sharing what they were thankful for. It was so cool to see these children at such a young age identify the gifts that God has given them. Some highlights were one boy who just started looking around the room and naming things that he's thankful for (sunglasses, pumpkins, fall, etc.) and

a little girl who said that she was thankful that God and Jesus were always with her. The faith of these little ones is truly uplifting.

The ministry here has been a lot of fun for me. It is crazy that we have completed over 1/3 of vicarage already! I am still teaching 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade religion and have been assisting with services on Sunday. I served as chaplain for a 4-day retreat with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class. It was so fun

to spend an extended period of time with them while hiking, learning about the outdoors and talking about Jesus. I also recently picked up leading a Bible Study lecture series called LifeLight. It is a lot of fun to take a deep dive into the scriptures with the members here, especially doing so with some parts of scripture that not everyone is as familiar with (we are going through Obadiah, Jonah & Micah). In addition, I just preached a sermon to start off our Advent series about God's action and our waiting for Jesus' return. It can be found at this link in you are curious!

<https://bethlehemdenver.com/unto-us/>

We hope that you and your family are well during these unusual holidays. It is sad how many family gatherings and traditions will not happen this year due to the pandemic, but I am thankful that God is holding this all together when it feels like everything is falling apart. We are praying for health and safety for you. Thank you once again for the blessing that you are!

God's Richest Blessings,  
PJ & Melanie Aarsvold



Here I am at our retreat with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The camp is called IdRaHaJe, which is abbreviated for "I'd Rather Have Jesus." It was a neat reminder that Jesus is worth so much more than anything this world offers!



Our Thanksgiving meal. We always get a bottle of sparkling grape juice (which worked out well this year since Melanie's pregnant). We waited too long to buy a turkey so we had to improvise. We got steak instead. Neither of us complained.